

REMARKS

In the Office Action¹, the Examiner objected to the title. The Examiner also rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Pang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,177,329, hereafter “Pang”); rejected claims 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pang in view of Shimooka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,534,870, hereafter “Shimooka”); and indicated that claims 3, 5, and 7 are drawn to allowable material, and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 5, and canceled claim 3. Claims 8-20 are withdrawn, and thus claims 1 and 3-7 remain under examination. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable material, but respectfully traverse the rejections.

The Examiner indicated that the title of this application is not descriptive. Office Action at page 2. Applicants have amended the title of the application in a manner consistent with the suggestions of the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Pang. However, to advance prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the claim language recited in claim 3, indicated by the Examiner as drawn to allowable material. Accordingly, amended claim 1 is allowable. In light of the above discussed amendment, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and allow pending claim 1.

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

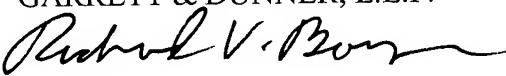
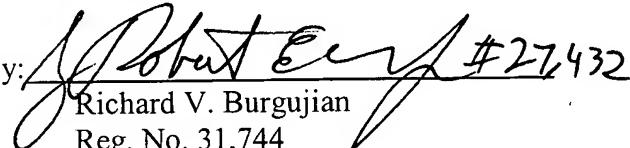
Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Pang and Shimooka. Claims 4 and 6 depend from claim 1, and thus incorporate each and every element of independent claim 1. The Examiner previously indicated that amended claim 1 is drawn to allowable subject matter, and thus, claims 4 and 6, are therefore also allowable at least due to their dependence from claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.


By: 
Richard V. Burgujian
Reg. No. 31,744

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